

LANDMARK



SURVEY

IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 1204 Rugby Road
 Map and Parcel: 38-134
 Census Tract & Block: 7-124
 Present Owner: James R. Greenbaum
 Address: P. O. Box 5586
 Charlottesville, VA 22905
 Present Use: Residential Apartments
 Original Owner: Schuyler T. Rhodes, Mason Gordon
 Original Use: Residence

BASE DATA

Historic Name: Stonefield
 Date/Period: 1860, 1881-84
 Style: Vernacular, Victorian
 Height to Cornice:
 Height in Stories: 2
 Present Zoning: R-1
 Land Area (sq.ft.): 94,962 (2.18 acres)
 Assessed Value (land + imp.): 84,200

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Since its origins in 1860, Stonefield has undergone a process of growth which is difficult to determine precisely but which consisted of two general stages. The original building was a simple, vernacular two-storey, one-over-one-room frame house on a high brick basement (finished, and used as a dining room). Exterior sheathing of this section is board and batten; a massive exterior chimney of brick stands at one gable end; and the gable roof is covered with standing-seam tin. Several additions and porch-enclosures have expanded this section considerably. In the period 1880-1884, Mason Gordon added a two-storey Victorian Queen Anne "facade", two rooms in width and one room deep, effectively masking the rambling vernacular structure behind. Construction of this "new" addition is frame sheathed with weatherboard over a high brick foundation. A hip roof of composition shingles covers the main section, while a large gable on the left side of the facade overhangs the semi-octagonal bay-projection that the first-and second-floor rooms make to the front on that side. Eaves are finished with a simple boxed cornice supported on frieze brackets. Elaborate brackets with fan motifs support the overhanging corners of the gable. A large chimney of brick is located in the center of the roof. A small single-storey, rectangular porch with a quantity of spool-work covers the main door.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

On March 13, 1860, Schuyler T. Rhodes purchased from Andrew J. Farish a six-acre tract of land near the intersection of Barracks and Hydraulic (now Rugby) Roads (Co. DB 58-509). Tax records of 1861 show that he had added in the year preceding improvements valued at \$600, most likely the small, two-storey house that comprises the southeast corner of the existing house. Rhodes increased the property to 10 acres in 1863 (Co. DB 60-453) and sold to Mason Gordon in November 1869 for \$1400 (Co. DB 64-456). By 1877, Gordon had increased his acreage to 71, and building value was increased to \$1500 between 1880 and 1884, most likely when the house attained roughly its present form. In 1915, Nancy Burr Gordon, Mason's daughter, moved the school that she had operated downtown since 1911 to the house where it became Stonefield School. Stonefield served as Miss Gordon's residence and school house until the year after her death in 1954. The school then merged with the University Country Day School to form Belfield School and moved elsewhere. The present owner of Stonefield is a granddaughter of Mason Gordon. See also: Co. DB 65-230, DB 165-306; City DB 182-358.

SIGNIFICANCE

The prestigious Stonefield School was conducted by Miss Nancy Gordon in this house from 1915 until her death in 1954. (The name is perpetuated, after two mergers with other schools, in St. Anne's-Belfield.) The house itself is a fine example of a Victorian country house.

CONDITIONS

Good

UTM: 17/720000/4213880

SOURCES

County/City Records
 Mrs. James H. Chenery